

Application No. 09/828,703
Attorney Docket No. 66536/6693

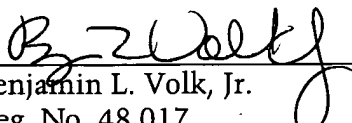
Remarks:

Pending in the application at the time of the October 18, 2005 Office Action were claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-25, 28-32, 35-38, 41-46, and 49-88. The Office Action, (1) allowed claims 56 and 57, (2) identified claims 83-86 as being allowable (but objected to for depending from a rejected antecedent claim), and (3) rejected all other claims under §102 or §103. By this amendment, Applicant (1) cancels claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-25, 28-32, 35-38, 41-46, 49-55, 58-78, 80-82 without prejudice, (2) amends claim 83 into independent form by expressly incorporating the subject matter of its antecedent claims, and (3) amends claims 79 and 87 to depend from claim 83, which had been identified as allowable. Therefore, now pending in the application are claims 56, 57, 79 and 83-88.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance because all pending claims are either those previously allowed, identified as allowable, or depend from a claim identified as allowable. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation patent applications to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Benjamin L. Volk, Jr.
Reg. No. 48,017
Thompson Coburn LLP
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
(314) 552-6000
(314) 552-7000 (fax)